

(b) whether it was to be implemented in July 1964 ;

(c) if so, whether it has been implemented ; if not the reasons for not implementing the directions ?

A.—Sri K. V. SHANKARA GOWDA (Minister for Agriculture and Education).—

(a) No. Government of India have framed a scheme and States are free to take advantage of the scheme.

(b) No.

(c) The scheme has been implemented.

### General Hospital at Chickballapur

514. Sri K. M. PUTTASWAMY (Chickballapur).—

Will the Minister for Health and Housing be pleased to state :—

(a) the steps taken to convert the Combined Hospital at Chickballapur into General Hospital ;

(b) whether Government intend to convert the Combined Hospital known as Kandawarda Appaia's Hospital located in Chickballapur also into General Hospital by providing more facilities ;

(c) whether a sum, Rs. One lakh has already been sanctioned for conversion of the hospital into General Hospital ?

A.—Sri K. PUTTASWAMY (Minister for Health and Housing).—

(a) Orders sanctioning conversion of the Combined Hospital into a General Hospital of 50 beds have been issued on 2nd April 1968.

(b) No.

(c) No.

### CALL ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Sri G. AMARE GOWDA.—I call the attention of the Minister for Food and Civil Supplies to the recovery of levy by coercive methods in Sindhanoor Taluk of Raichur District.

Sri B. D. JATTI (Minister for Food and Civil Supplies).—My attention has been called to the alleged recovery of the levy on foodgrains through coercive methods in Sindhanoor Taluk where paddy and other crops are stated to have failed due to non-supply of water, as the Tungbhadra Main Canal suffered a breach at a crucial period.

(SRI B. D. JATTI)

In this connection, I would like to make the following points once again clear, as I have already done on more than one occasion in the past in this House.

The scheme of procurement by levy on foodgrains adopted in Mysore State involves a levy, not on the land as such, but on the crop grown, of which there is stock. In other words, under the State's levy orders, there can be no collection of levy if no crop has been grown on the land, or if there has been a failure of the crop, owing to reasons such as the one mentioned by the hon'ble member.

The levy is determined initially on the basis of a gradual scale with reference to the area of the grower's holding and its source of irrigation, as prescribed in the schedules to the levy orders.

However, it should be stated that the Levy Orders themselves provide an option to the grower to claim determination of net surplus. If the grower considers that his net surplus is lower than the levy, as per scales either because some of his land remains fallow, or because of failure of crop, he may take an application in the prescribed form for reassessment of levy. If it is established that his net surplus is less than the levy, according to the initial demand, the levy will be suitably reduced. If it is established that the crop has completely failed, then no levy will be collected.

There is thus no scope under the Levy Orders for collecting levy where the crop has failed, or for collecting higher rates where the yield does not justify this.

Hence, the question of harassment of growers for collection of levy does not arise. We are also aware that this year many parts of the State have been affected with scarcity conditions. In this context, in so far as collection of levy is concerned, general instructions have already been issued to all the Deputy Commissioners that in fixing the levy targets for villages affected by scarcity, assistance of the Village Panchayat Members and the Taluk Board Members concerned may be utilised. This would, no doubt, apply to Sindhanoor Taluk, as it would apply to other areas where crops might have failed.

So far, no specific instance of adoption of coercive methods for the collection of levy in Sindhanoor Taluk have come to my notice. Sometimes, a firm, proper demand made by the authorities concerned, on the basis of factual data, is misconstrued as harassment. Nevertheless, if specific instances of coercive harassment in Sindhanoor Taluk are brought to the notice of Government, I shall ensure that immediate redress is given.

It will be appreciated that, in a climate of scarcity the interests of the entire population of the State will have to be safeguarded to the extent possible and that each case will have to be dealt with on its merits.